if, in some such way, the elements of vocational education could be co-ordinated with manual training and they would await the results of the new experiment with great interest.

53. A set of rules has been sanctioned with a view to create a net-work of night schools for the benefit of illiterate adults. These are in addition to the part-time schools referred to in my Address last year, which have been sanctioned with a view to serve the children of the labouring classes.

54. Encouragement of Vernaculars. With a view to the further encouragement of vernacular languages, Government have ruled that all correspondence in subordinate offices should be in the vernacular as far as possible, and that every person appointed in the subordinate ranks of the service should possess a knowledge of the vernacular. A full-time Assistant Translator has been appointed in the Huzur Office mainly to cope with the work of Tamil translation. Arrangements have been made for the translation of the proceedings of the Legislative Council into Malayalam and for the speedy collection of rare Malayalam manuscripts with a view to their ultimate publication. The Vernacular Text Book Committee is being entrusted with the duty of re-editing Malayalam Readers on behalf of the Government.

55. Libraries. The maximum grant awardable to a village library and reading room has been raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 per annum. The scheme for the affiliation of mofussil libraries to the Trivandrum Public Library, referred to in my Address last year, has been given effect to in the beginning of the current year, but only four such libraries have so far come forward to avail themselves of the concession.

56. Depressed Classes. The moral and material elevation of the depressed classes continues to engage the earnest attention of the Government. I have already referred to the efforts made in the direction of providing them with house-sites and economic farms, but these efforts, as already stated, have not been productive of much result, and in the opinion of the Government the time has now arrived for making the welfare of these classes the definite duty of a responsible officer. The details of this duty do not lend themselves to precise definition at once; but in the matter of securing grants of lands, they may be roughly described as consisting in the verification of lists of lands ear-marked for assignment to the depressed classes and the rectification of such lists by the elimination therefrom of useless lands and the addition thereto of useful ones, the maintenance of a record of applications for lands from members of these classes, and the watching of their disposal with a view to secure both celerity and satisfaction. The officer whose duties bring him into most intimate contact with the depressed classes is the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the question of appointing that officer as the protector of the depressed classes is now under the consideration of Government. Most of the departmental schools hitherto inaccessible to these classes have been thrown open to them under a scheme of joint inspection by the officers of the Land Revenue and Education Departments; and there are at present only 11 departmental schools in respect of which the question does not admit of immediate solution, while, in the case of the remaining 13, the necessary steps are in progress. In the case of the former 11 also, some way must be found out of the difficulty, and this will engage the attention of the Government. Government are glad to note that there is a progressive awakening of civic consciousness among the depressed classes and that they are banding themselves together in various ways for their self-advancement. The Co-operative and Fisheries Departments have been taking pointed interest in the uplift of these communities. Up to the end of Vrischikam 1099, as many as 96 Co-operative Societies have been registered for their special benefit, while the educational and industrial help rendered by the Department of Fisheries among the fisherfolk has not been inconsiderable.

Miscellaneous.

57. Devaswoms. The stabilisation of the Devaswom Department, newly constituted at the beginning of 1098, is proceeding satisfactorily. Government have ordered that the *pathivu* allotments not only for *nityanidanam*, but also for the *akattêpadittaram* in respect of *mâsavisêsham*, *âttavisêsham* and *utsavam* in all the major Devaswoms, the *pathivus* for which have been revised, should be fixed in

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly